

Caldwell County Schools

Child Nutrition Department

INVITATION FOR BIDS/PROPOSALS:

Sealed bids/proposals are being solicited for the merchandise, services, and/or equipment as set forth in this Bid Invitation by the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department in accordance with the attached specifications, terms and conditions.

Completed bid documents must be received by the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department, Attn: Jessica Price, Child Nutrition Director, 1914 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645 before the due date to be considered. Late proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and properly marked with the Bid Number, Product Category, Opening Date and Time as follows:

BID NO. 21 ICE CREAM BID OPENS JUNE 12, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M. The contract time period for this bid is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. After bids are received and reviewed, the Child Nutrition Director will accept the one to best serve the Child Nutrition Program. This contract at the end of one year will be reviewed and if agreeable with the Child Nutrition Director and Purveyor, the contract will be extended for one additional year, up to four additional years.

Bids may be withdrawn prior to the opening date and time, but only in accordance with Section 17 of the General Terms and Conditions Documents entitled "Withdrawal or Modification of Bid." Proposals received without proper signature are not acceptable.

Questions regarding this Bid Invitation should be received at the following address at least three working days before the bid opening:

Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department
Attn: Jessica Price, Child Nutrition Director
1914 Hickory Blvd, Lenoir, NC 28645

Telephone: (828) 728-8407

Nondiscrimination Statement: "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

Under the Federal Child Nutrition Program and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited under the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-

9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

1. *General Provisions*

1. Bid Preparation and Submission Procedures

Sealed bids will be received until the deadline indicated in the Bid Certification.

Each bid must be submitted in a **SEALED** opaque envelope (or other non-transparent package or container). The outside of the bid envelope (or other package or container) must bear the following information in clear and legible form:

- a) In the upper left-hand corner: print the full name and address of the bidding entity, and the name and telephone number, including the area code, of the person to contact with questions about the bid submission; and
- b) In the lower left-hand corner: "SEALED BID," the bid name, bid number, and submission deadline indicated on the Bid Certification.

Bids may be submitted by the U.S. Mail, common carrier, or other courier or delivery service, or by hand delivery. If submitted other than U.S. Mail, bids should be delivered to the physical location of the department – Caldwell County Child Nutrition, 1914 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC. If forwarded by mail or courier or delivery service, the **sealed** bid envelope, indicated above should be enclosed in **another envelope** addressed as specified below. Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department will not be responsible for bids or related correspondence that are delivered to the wrong address or misplaced. The date/time record of the Child Nutrition Director or designee will indicate the official time of receipt.

Bids should be mailed or delivered to:

Caldwell County Child Nutrition
Attn: Jessica Price, Child Nutrition Director
1914 Hickory Blvd, Lenoir, NC, 28645

Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted for consideration, and will be returned unopened. Bids received in an unsealed condition will not be considered. **Faxed bids, emailed bids, and related communication will not be accepted.**

A representative of the bidding entity who is authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the bidding entity must sign bids in ink. The person signing the bid must indicate his/her title along with a signature. Bids received without proper signature will not be considered.

Bidders must return all properly signed original documents required in the bid response. Bidders should retain photocopies for their files. Any change made to any written response on any of the bid documents must be made in ink by marking through the original entry and entering the new information alongside the change. Changes should not be made

with correction fluid. All changes must be “initialed” by the person making the change, and the name of the person who initialed the change must be noted in a footnote on the same page containing the correction. **Failure to return any document or information requested as part of the bid response may result in rejection of the entire bid.**

Bidders or their authorized representatives are expected to fully inform themselves as to the terms, conditions, requirements and specifications of this Bid Invitation before submitting bids. Failure to do so will be at the bidder’s own risk. The law makes no allowance for errors or omission or commission on the part of the bidders; furthermore, the bidder cannot secure relief on the plea of error or ignorance concerning any requirement included in the Bid Invitation.

Vendors who do not wish to respond to this Bid Invitation, but who want to remain on our list for future opportunities in this product category should complete, sign, and return the signature sheet entitled “Bid Certification” **with “NO BID”** indicated on the face of the form. Failure to adhere to this procedure may result in removal of the bidder’s name from our bidder list.

Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening at the date and time indicated in the Bid Certification, but bidder presence is not required, and no weight or other consideration toward any award decision will be given to any bidder’s attendance or absence at the bid opening. Recaps of the details of the bids received will be available to any interested party upon WRITTEN request. The form and content of the bid recaps will be at the sole discretion of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department. They may be in electronic form.

2. Statement of Inclusion/Applicability

These General Terms and conditions are applicable to all Bid Invitations issued by the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department, and by this inclusion, they become an integral part of any contract which is awarded, or purchase order which is issued in association with this Bid Invitation.

3. General

The section titles contained in this General Terms and Conditions document are for convenience and reference only, and in no way define, describe, extend, or limit the scope or intent of the provisions of any section of this document. The term “Bid” and “Proposal” may be used interchangeably.

Unless otherwise stated, any listing of factors or criteria in this document does not constitute an order of preference or importance.

The term “contract,” as used in this document, means the comprehensive collection of:

- a) This General Terms and Conditions document, including any attachments and or amendments thereto,
- b) The Item Specifications included in the Bid Invitation and any subsequent addenda thereto,
- c) The bidder’s signed Bid Certification sheet, which must be completed, signed by an authorized representative of the bidding entity, and returned with the bidder’s

response, along with this ENTIRE Terms and Conditions document and all other forms and information collection pages included with this Bid Invitation,

- d) The bidder's response to the Bid Invitation,
- e) The bidder's Notice of Award document,
- f) And any additional terms, conditions, or instructions issued by any member(s) of the Caldwell County Child Nutrition Department

Collectively, these documents represent the entire agreement between the parties.

4. Contract Time Period

The time period for purchases covered by a contract resulting from an award under this bid is stated in the Bid Certification. The Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department reserves the right to award the bid to a vendor for a longer initial term period than the time period stated in the Bid Certification if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department. Unless otherwise indicated in these General Terms and Conditions, all bid pricing will be firm throughout the entire contract period.

Upon mutual written agreement of both parties, this contract may be extended beyond the expiration of the contract time period in accordance with section #44 of this General terms and Conditions document entitled "Extension Clause."

The transfer, assignment, or subcontracting of contracts is prohibited, and the bidder agrees not to sell, assign, transfer, convey, or subcontract any portion of this contract resulting from this Bid Invitation without the prior written consent of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

5. Addendum

In the event that any changes to this Bid Invitation occur subsequent to the mailing or other delivery of the original Bid Invitation, the changes or corrections to this Bid Invitation will be made by addendum, and any updated information contained in any addendum will prevail over the information contained in the original Bid Invitation or any previous addendum. Each addendum will be mailed to all entities that are known to have received a copy of this Bid Invitation. The Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department is the sole authority for the issuance of any addendum related to this bid. Any communications from any person or entity other than the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department regarding any matters related to this bid are invalid and will have no influence on this Bid Invitation.

Each addendum must be acknowledged on the acknowledgement form provided with the addendum. Any required acknowledgement form must be submitted along with the submission of any bid response.

6. Specifications

Catalog numbers, brand names, or manufacturer's product or reference numbers used in the item specifications are intended to be descriptive, not restrictive. These references, as well as "approved brands" listed, are intended to identify and indicate the type of product being sought, and establish the level of quality desired. If any conflict exists in the item specifications between the product descriptions and any brand names or model or reference

numbers used, the product descriptions will override the brand names or model number references.

In most cases, bids on brands of equivalent nature and quality will be considered, provided they are regularly produced products from a reputable manufacturer. However, in some cases, Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department may find it advantageous to standardize equipment/ and or supplies by manufacturer in order to achieve efficiencies in procurement, repair, and operation, to match existing stock, or to satisfy other requirements. In these cases, preferences will be given to the specific products identified as “approved brands” especially if all other evaluation factors are deemed to be equal. For this reason, where specific brands or models are identified, it is preferable for the bidder to bid on the exact item specified, in addition to an alternate brand or model where desired.

All bids must identify the manufacturer, brand, model, etc. of the article being offered. **“Pre-Approved Equal”** Brands may be allowed where indicated. To bid on “Pre-Approved Equal” items rather than any “approved brand” specified, the bidder must supply a complete description and sufficient data for the Child Nutrition Department to properly analyze the product being bid. Samples may be requested for items other than “approved brands”. These “Pre-approved Equal” brands must be approved by Child Nutrition Department **before** the bid opening. Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department reserves the right to reject approving any brand submitted if the Child Nutrition Department does not have sufficient information or testing conducted in order to deem the product as a “Pre-approved Equal”.

If the bidder fails to identify the manufacturer, brand, model, etc. for any item being bid on, the Child Nutrition Department will assume the bidder is bidding on **the exact brand and model identified in the specification**, and if awarded, the vendor will be required to furnish the **exact brand names, models, etc. as specified. Substitutions will not be allowed.**

The apparent silence of the specifications as to any detail or the apparent omission from any specification of a detailed description concerning any point shall be regarded as meaning that only the best communication practices shall prevail. All interpretations of the specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement.

If you discover or suspect error in the item specifications in this Bid Invitation, please note it as part of your bid response. We will attempt to correct errors for future Bid Invitations.

7. The Buy American Provision

Section 104(d) of the William F. Goodling Reauthorization Act of 1998 requires schools participating in the NSLP and the SBP in the contiguous United States to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products for use in meals served under the programs.

The legislation defines “domestic commodity or product” as one that is produced in the United States and is processed in the United States, substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. The report accompanying the legislation stipulated that “substantially” means over 51 percent of the final processed product consists of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically.

Additional Product Requirements: No imported product is permissible when an acceptable domestic product is available, with the exception of pineapple. Each permitted imported

product other than pineapple must be pre-approved by the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

8. Bid Evaluation and Award

All bids received in response to this Bid Invitation which are submitted in accordance with the instructions and restrictions contained in #1 of this General terms and Conditions document entitled "Bid Preparation and Submission Procedures" will initially be considered for award; however, initial consideration of any bid will not constitute an assessment of its meeting the necessary qualifications, and any bid may be disqualified at any time during the process of evaluating bids for failure to meet any other terms or conditions contained anywhere else in the Bid Invitation.

The Child Nutrition Department reserves the right to waive any or all bidding irregularities, formalities, or other technicalities, to be the sole and independent judge of quality and suitability of any products offered, and may accept or reject any bid in its entirety, or may reject any part of any bid without affecting the remainder of that bid, and may award the individual items on this bid in any combination or any way to best serve the interests of its members as it perceives those interests to be in its sole discretion.

It is not the policy of Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department to purchase on the basis of low bid price alone. All bid items are subject to evaluation and approval by the Child Nutrition Department. In evaluating the bids received and determining the best value, the Child Nutrition Department may consider any combination of the following criteria: (1) the purchase price; (2) the reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods and/or services; (3) the extent to which the goods and/or services meet the needs of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department; (4) the vendor's location, service, and delivery capabilities; (5) the vendor's past performance with Caldwell County Schools; (6) student preferences; (7) the warranties offered and the bidder's warranty service history; (8) the probability of continuous availability of the goods/and or services offered; (9) the impact on the ability of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department to comply with any applicable laws or rules; (10) the total long-term cost to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department to acquire the vendor's goods and/or services; (11) packaging or the products and in some cases preferences is given to a vendor who provides all the components relative to the complete package, and (12) any other relevant factor that a public or private entity could consider in selecting a vendor.

It is understood that the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department may use all means at their collective disposal to evaluate the bids received on these criteria, and the final decision as to the best overall offer, both as to price and to suitability of the products and/or services offered to fit the needs of the Caldwell County School System, will solely rest on the Child Nutrition Department of Caldwell County.

Unless otherwise indicated in this Bid Invitation, "all or nothing" bids are not acceptable and will be rejected. The bidder must be willing to accept a partial award for any combination of the items and/or services bid, and must be willing to share the business with any other successful bidders.

The successful bidder(s) will be notified by "Notice(s) of Award" issued by the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Director.

The Child Nutrition Department of Caldwell County Schools reserves the right to require a performance bond as it is deemed necessary.

2. General Provisions

9. Quantities

Quantities reflected in this Bid Invitation are estimates based on the projected needs for Caldwell County Schools during the contract period. Quantities are the best estimate of anticipated needs available at the time of publication of this Bid Invitation, but the accuracy of this estimate of these quantities may be affected by numerous factors including but not limited to, budgetary adjustments, availability of government commodities or other subsidies, changing market forces, unintentional errors or omissions, and changes in school participation. Actual needs may be greater or less than the estimated quantities provided.

Vendors will be notified of significant changes in the estimated quantities, as they become known through the bid period.

Successful bidders will be required to monitor consumption rates and bring any exceptions to the attention of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Directors as soon as possible. The Child Nutrition Director will communicate slow-moving items to its schools if notified by the vendor. Except for conditions discussed within section #24 of this document entitled "Force Majeure," vendors are required to maintain sufficient inventories to cover the needs of the Caldwell County School System with only minimal, occasional, and temporary inability to provide products on a timely basis. Vendors at the close of the contract period agree not to hold the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department liable for any inaccuracies in estimated quantities or for any products on hand.

10. Packaging

Unless otherwise provided for in this Bid Invitation, all products supplied under any contract resulting from this Bid Invitation must be packaged in containers that are new, appropriately designed for the products involved, and sturdy enough to protect the products involved in loading, transit, unloading, and storage. Any products supplied under contract resulting from this Bid Invitation for which palletizing is appropriate must be delivered on standard 48" 4-way pallets in good, serviceable condition.

11. Pricing

All "Line Item" Bids must be for a specific price for the unit of measure specified for that item. The bidder is responsible for clearly noting any differences in proposed packaging and/or units of measure in the bid response, and the bidder shall understand that if the item in question is awarded to the bidder, the quantity specified for that item will be adjusted to achieve an approximately equivalent amount of the product.

In cases where other price is requested for comparison purposes (e.g., "portion price" or "price per ounce"), such price is for comparison purposes only. Purchases will be made in the increments of the

unit of measure specified. In the case of any discrepancy or error in comparison price calculations, the price for the unit of measure specified will prevail. Excessive errors in comparison price calculations will be sufficient grounds for rejection of the entire bid.

“Discount from Catalog” Bid Invitations require a single discount percentage to be applied to all items in the bidder’s published catalog, which must be supplied with the bid response.

“Cost Plus” bids will not be accepted unless otherwise requested in this Bid Invitation.

If during the term of the contract, a successful bidder’s net prices to any or all of its other customers in similar market circumstances for any of the same items awarded under this Bid Invitation are increased and proof can be provided, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such price increase shall be extended to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department after time to verify and make changes in its accounting system.

If during the term of the contract, a successful bidder’s net prices to any or all of its other customers in similar market circumstances for any of the same items awarded under this Bid Invitation are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such price reduction shall be extended to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

12. Delivery and Transportation

Unless otherwise noted in these General Terms and Conditions or the Purchase Order, or unless prior approval has been obtained from the Child Nutrition Director, all deliveries shall be made between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Unless otherwise noted in this Bid Invitation or in the Purchase Order, the bidder must deliver products awarded under this Bid Invitation within ten (10) working days after receipt of a Purchase Order. The vendor must immediately notify the Child Nutrition Department, by telephone and/or fax, if any delays occur. The Child Nutrition Department will have the option to cancel the order if unable to accept the delay. At the discretion of the Child Nutrition Department, items received after the due date, for which the Child Nutrition Department has not been notified regarding the delay, may be returned at the vendor’s expense with no penalty to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

Repeated failure to meet delivery dates will constitute a breach of contract by the vendor, and may result in the initiation of actions covered in section #23 of this General Terms and Conditions document entitled “Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination” and the associated financial impacts attached thereto, as well as jeopardize any future business from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

All freight, delivery, and handling charges are the responsibility of the bidder, and all bid prices must be quoted freight prepaid, F.O.B. destination, and shall include all freight, delivery, and handling charges, including unloading and inside deliveries where required. The bid package includes a summary listing of the number of delivery locations at the time this Bid Invitation was mailed.

Cartons must be marked with appropriate product identifying information as indicated on the Purchase Order. Each shipment must include a packing list and waybill or delivery ticket.

If the vendor is delivering products out of more than one warehouse or distribution center, all warehouses or distribution centers involved in the distribution plan **MUST** carry or have timely access to all awarded items and **MUST** be able to respond to orders in a timely

manner. Unless otherwise specified in this Bid Invitation, product substitutions are not allowed, and the involvement of multiple distribution centers will not be construed as to alter the restrictions against product substitutions. In the event the vendors use multiple distribution centers, the Child Nutrition Department will have ONE CONTACT PERSON for overall contract management relative to any contract resulting from any award under this Bid Invitation and the Child Nutrition Department WILL NOT be required to deal with multiple vendor contracts for overall contract management.

Except for items that have hidden defects or that do not meet specification, title to all products shall pass to the Child Nutrition Department upon receipt and acceptance at the time of.

13. Quality

Unless otherwise indicated in the Bid Invitation, all items bid must be new and in first class condition and must conform to the highest standards of manufacturing practice, including containers suitable for shipment and storage. Unless otherwise requested, the Child Nutrition Department will not accept "factory seconds" or otherwise inferior goods, and reserves the right to return any such item(s) within (30) days of receipt at vendor's expense.

All electrical items must meet all applicable OSHA standards and regulations, and must bear the appropriate listing from US, FMRC, NEMA, or U L Laboratories.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on chemicals or any other products customarily requiring MSDS Sheets must be provided for the Child Nutrition Department. MSDS Sheets must be delivered along with the first shipment within the contract period. Promptly and at no additional costs the bidder will provide additional Materials Safety Data Sheets. Providing a web site access location to MSDS information is an acceptable alternative.

In an effort to obtain quality products and services, the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department may give preference to vendors that are ISO certified. This will contribute to ensuring that vendors will meet the Child Nutrition Departments product use expectations.

14. Product Inspection, Testing, and Defective Items

All products supplied under this contract should arrive in the best possible condition and will be subject to inspection, testing, and approval by the Child Nutrition Department. Tests may be performed on any samples submitted as part of the bidding or evaluation process, or on samples taken from any regular shipment. In the event any product tested fails to meet or exceed all requirements of the bid item specifications or the General Terms and Conditions of the Bid Invitation, the cost of the samples used and the cost of the testing shall be borne by the supplier, and upon notification to the vendor, the defective product(s) will be picked up and replaced by the vendor. Repeated incidents of delivery of products that fail to pass product inspection and/or testing by a vendor will warrant cancellation of the contract in addition to the remedies outlined above. Furthermore, future business from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department could be jeopardized.

Products damaged in shipment will be considered as defective products and will be subject to the same remedies outlined above.

The failure of any consumable products (food items) to meet specifications or acceptable chemical or bacterial levels may result in cancellation of the contract in addition to the remedies outlined above.

Furthermore, future business from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department could be jeopardized. All products in the Child Nutrition Departments' warehouse at the time of any such cancellation must be picked up and credit issued. Latent defects discovered after delivery and acceptance of any products may result in revocation of the acceptance.

The Child Nutrition Department shall have access to any supplier's place of business during normal business hours for the purpose of inspecting merchandise.

15. Samples

If samples are needed for bid evaluation, they will be requested as part of the Bid Invitation or in a separate communication. Unless otherwise indicated in the request for the samples, the samples must be received by the requestor within 72 hours from the time of the request.

Samples must be furnished free of expense to the Child Nutrition Department. Samples must be labeled with the Bid Name and Number, Item Number, Product Identification number(s), and the name of the bidding entity. Do not include samples with the bid response unless otherwise instructed in the Bid Invitation.

All samples will be retained by the Child Nutrition Department for a sufficient length of time for proper evaluation. If not destroyed or consumed during examination or testing, samples will be returned to the bidder at the bidder's expense, but only upon written request submitted with the samples at the time the samples were submitted. However, notwithstanding the above samples from the successful bidder may be retained permanently by the Child Nutrition Department for the purpose of determining the quality and workmanship of the delivered items are comparable to the samples. Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department shall incur no liability for any samples that are damaged, destroyed or consumed during examination or testing.

Failure by any bidder to submit samples when requested will result in the items in question not being considered for award to that bidder.

16. Warranties

By submission of a bid, the bidder warrants that the bidder is an authorized dealer, distributor, or manufacturer for the product(s) being offered, that all items bid conform to the specifications for which the items are being offered, and that all items supplied under any contract related to this bid Invitation will be free from all defects in material, workmanship, and title.

A minimum of 90-days product guarantee or the manufacturer's standard commercial warranty, whichever is greater, shall apply to all products purchased under this Bid Invitation. This warranty shall provide for replacement of defective merchandise from the specified Caldwell County School Cafeteria location and delivery of the replacement(s) to the same location. The warranty shall be effective from the date of acceptance of the merchandise.

This warranty shall survive any inspection, delivery, acceptance, or payment by Caldwell County Schools of the Goods. This express warranty is in addition to the Bidder's implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, which shall not be disclaimed by the Bidder.

17. Withdrawal or Modification of Bid

Subject to the restrictions discussed below, the Child Nutrition Department will consider a WRITTEN request from any bidder that the bidder be allowed to withdraw any bid submitted, but ONLY IN ITS ENTIRETY, and ONLY UNTIL THE DUE DATE AND TIME FOR BID SUBMISSION as stated in the Bid Certification included with this Bid Invitation. A representative of the bidding entity who is authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the bidding entity must manually sign any request for the withdrawal of any bid in ink, and the person signing the request must indicate his/her title along with his/her signature. No bid may be withdrawn after the date and time that bids are due as specified in the Bid Certification. Only bids that have been submitted consistent with the instructions relating to packaging and labeling of the bid will be considered for withdrawal.

If there is any question in the mind of the Child Nutrition Director or designee regarding the identity of the bid or the identity of the bidder relation to any request for the withdrawal of any bid, the Child Nutrition Director will refuse to allow the withdrawal of the bid. Withdrawal of any bid allowed by the Child Nutrition Director will require the completion and signature of a written receipt by the bidder's representative satisfactory to the Child Nutrition Director before the bid will be released. The decision of the Child Nutrition Director in relation to any matters concerning bid withdrawal will be final.

If a bidder requests to withdraw a bid and the Child Nutrition Director allows the withdrawal of the bid, the bidder may resubmit the bid, or submit a new bid, up until the due date and time for bid submission as stated in the Bid Certification included with this Bid Invitation, provided any new submission meets all the qualifications of bid submission included in these General Terms and Conditions.

If a bidder resubmits a bid that was withdrawn and makes changes to any document in the bid package, an authorized agent of the bidder must initial all alterations made to any bid document.

All bids in possession of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department at the time bids are due shall be deemed final, conclusive, and irrevocable, and no bid shall be subject to withdrawal, amendment, or correction after the due date and time for bid submission as stated in the Bid Certification included with this Bid Invitation.

18. Substitutions

The Child Nutrition Department will not accept any substitutes after items(s) have been awarded as specified, unless such substitutions are deemed to be in the best interest of the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department, and unless prior agreements have been reached and reduced to writing regarding such substitutions. Substituting without the prior approval of the Child Nutrition Director or designee will constitute a breach of contract

by the vendor which may result in the initiation of actions covered in section #23 of this General terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination" and the associated financial impacts attached thereto, and may jeopardize any future business from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

19. Deviations from Item Specification or General Terms and Conditions

Any and all limitations, expectations, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations from these General Terms and Conditions or any of the item specifications, including the offering of any alternate to the 'approved brand and/or model' (where identified) must be clearly noted in detail by the bidder at the time of submission of the bid. The absence of such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations being submitted in writing with the bidder's response will hold the bidder accountable to the Child Nutrition Services to perform in strict accordance with all these General Terms and Conditions and all the item specifications as written, including any such limitations, exceptions, qualifications, special conditions, or deviations with the bid response may place the bidder at a competitive disadvantage or otherwise prevent the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department from considering to bid on the affected items(s).

Any deviation from any of the item specifications, including the delivery of any product other than the specific brand and model of the product awarded, will be grounds for rejection of the product(s) when delivered, and will expose the vendor to the remedies identified in section #23 of this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination" and may jeopardize future business from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

20. Awards

Contracts shall be awarded pursuant to this Request of Bids on the Bid Sheet. Decisions to award contracts pursuant to this Request for Bids shall be based on the following:

- Purchase Price
- Price time the qty of previous school year usage.

Caldwell County Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids or any portion thereof and to waive any informality or technical defect in any bid.

21. Contract and Purchase Orders

A response to this Bid Invitation is an offer to contract with the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department based upon the Item Specifications and the General Terms and Conditions contained in the Bid Invitation. Bids do not become contracts unless and until they are both accepted by the Child Nutrition Department through an Award Notice to the bidder, and put into effect by the issuance of a Purchase Order(s) signed by an authorized representative of Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department.

This contract shall collectively include (1) the General Terms and Conditions and the Item Specifications included in the Bid Invitation and any subsequent addenda thereto, (2) the bidder's signed Bid Certification sheet and any subsequent addenda thereto, (3) the bidder's entire response to the Bid Invitation, (4) the bidder's Notice of Award document, (5) and any additional terms, conditions, or instructions contained in each individual Purchase Order. All

the binding agreements should be submitted as part of the bid packet. The contract shall be interpreted by and governed under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

22. Invoices, Packing Lists, and Payment

Packing Lists or other suitable shipping documents must accompany each shipment and must identify (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, number of containers, etc.

All Invoices must reflect (a) the name and address of the vendor, (b) the name and address or delivery location of the receiving entity, (c) the appropriate Purchase Order Number, and (d) detailed descriptive information identifying the item(s) delivered, including quantity, item number, product code, item description, etc., and must include a properly signed copy of the delivery receipt. Invoices must be mailed directly to the Child Nutrition Department.

The Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department will not be held responsible for any products delivered or invoiced without a valid current Purchase Order Number.

The payments stated on each individual Purchase Order will be the controlling factor in the determination of payment terms. Each Invoice should include the vendor's normal payment terms in the event that any Purchase Order fails to address the subject.

In any case, payment will be made only after satisfactory delivery and acceptance of merchandise in good order, including the necessary documentation indicated above, and only after receipt of a correct Invoice form the vendor, including the necessary information indicated above.

At the option of the Child Nutrition Department, invoices with incorrect prices or other errors or inconsistencies will not be paid until corrected, whether by credit memo(s) or issuance of a corrected invoice. At the option of the Child Nutrition Department, invoices may be corrected upon receipt and payment may be made based upon their corrections.

23. Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Termination of Contract

If the vendor cannot comply with the terms and conditions in fulfilling its contract as anticipated, the vendor must supply the same products or services contracted from other sources at the contract price. The vendor's delay in the above will constitute the vendor's material breach of contract, whereupon the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department may terminate the vendor's contract for cause as provided by the remainder of this section.

Unless this contract is extended by mutual agreement of the parties beyond the expiration of the contract time period as stated on the Bid Certification sheet, this contract shall terminate upon the expiration of the contract term as stated on the Bid Certification sheet.

If any delay or failure of performance is caused by a Force Majeure event as described in section #24 of this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Force Majeure," the Child Nutrition Department may, in its sole discretion, terminate this contract in whole or part, provided such termination follows the remaining requirements of this section.

Except as otherwise provided for within the General Terms and Conditions of this document, this contract may be terminated in whole or in part by either party in the event of substantial failure by the other party to fulfill its obligations under this contract through no fault of the terminating party; provided that no such termination may be implemented unless and until the other party is given (1) at least ten (10) days written notice (delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested) of intent to terminate, and (2) an opportunity for consultation with the terminating party, followed by a reasonable opportunity, of not more than ten (10) working days, to rectify the defects in products or performance, prior to termination.

Valid causes for termination of this contract will include, but are not limited to:

- a) the vendor's failure to adhere to any of the provisions of the General Terms and Conditions of this Bid Invitation,
- b) the vendor delivering any product(s) that fail to meet the Item Specifications included in this Bid Invitation relating to the awarded product(s)
- c) the vendor delivering any substitution(s) of product(s) different than those originally bid an awarded without the prior written approval of the Child Nutrition Director or designee,
- d) the vendor's failure to meet the required delivery schedules as identified in the contract documents, or
- e) The vendor's violation of any other provision contained within these General Terms and Conditions or any attachment thereto which provides for contract termination as a remedy.

Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, in the event of the vendor's breach of any provision in this contract, the Child Nutrition Department reserves the right to enforce the performance of this contract in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of its members, including, but not limited to, the purchase of other products of like type and quality from other sources in the open market. In the event the Child Nutrition Department elects to purchase other products from other sources, the Child Nutrition Department will invoice the vendor for any increased costs to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department, and the vendor agrees, by submission of a bid response, to promptly pay any such charges invoiced.

In the event the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department terminates this contract, in whole or in part, for any reason provided for within the contract, the Child Nutrition Department reserves the right to award to cancel contract, or any portion thereof, to the next lowest or best bidder as it deems such award to be in the best interest of its members.

Any contract termination resulting from any cause other than a Force Majeure event will be deemed valid reason for not considering any future bid from the defaulting vendor.

In the performance of this contract, time is of the essence and these General Terms and Conditions are of the essence.

24. Force Majeure

The term Force Majeure shall include, but is not limited to, governmental restraints or decrees, provided they affect all companies in the vendor's industry equally and are not

actions taken solely against the vendor; acts of God (except natural phenomena, such as rain, wind or flood, which are normally expected in the locale in which performance is to take place); work stoppages due to labor disputes or strikes; fires; explosions; epidemics; riots; war; rebellion; or sabotage.

The parties to this contract will be required to use due caution and preventative measures to protect against the effects of Force Majeure, and the burden of proving that Force Majeure has occurred shall rest on the party seeking relief under this section. The party seeking relief due to Force Majeure will be required to promptly notify the other party in writing, citing the details of the Force Majeure event, and will be required to use due diligence to overcome obstacles to performance created by the Force Majeure event, and shall resume performance immediately after the obstacles have been removed, provided the contract has not been terminated in the interim.

Delay or failure of performance, by either party to this contract, caused solely by the Force Majeure event shall be excused for the period of delay caused solely by the Force Majeure event, provided the affected party has promptly notified the other party in writing. Neither party shall have any claim for damages against the other resulting from delays caused solely by Force Majeure.

The Child Nutrition Department will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the vendor because of the Force Majeure event unless the Child Nutrition Department has requested, in writing, that the vendor incur such costs in connection with any delay or work stoppage caused by the Force Majeure event, and the Child Nutrition Department has agreed in such writing to incur such additional costs.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in the event the vendor's performance of its obligations under this contract is delayed or stopped by a Force Majeure event, the Child Nutrition Department shall have the option to terminate this contract in accordance with section #23 of this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination." Furthermore, this section shall not be interpreted as to limit or otherwise modify any of the Child Nutrition Department's rights as provided elsewhere in this contract.

25. Non-Collusion Certification

By signing this bid, the bidder certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge:

- a) Neither the bidder nor any business entity represented by the bidder has received compensation for participation in the preparation of the item specifications or the General Terms and Conditions related to this Bid Invitation,
- b) This bid or proposal has been arrived at independently and is submitted without collusion with any other bidder, with any competitor or potential competitor, or with any other person or entity to obtain any information or gain any special treatment or favoritism that would in any way limit competition or give any bidder an unfair advantage over any other bidder with respect to this bid,
- c) The bidder has not accepted, offered, conferred, or agreed to confer, and will not in the future accept offer, confer, or agree to confer, any benefit or anything of value to any person or entity related to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department in connection with any information or submission related to this bid, any recommendation, decision, vote, or award related to this bid, or the exercise of any influence or discretion

concerning the sale, delivery, or performance of any product or service related to this bid,

- d) Neither the bidder, nor any business entity represented by the bidder, nor anyone acting for such business entity, has violated the Federal Antitrust Laws or the antitrust laws of this State with regard to this bid, and this bid or proposal has not been knowingly disclosed, and will not be knowingly disclosed to any other bidder, competitor, or potential competitor prior to the opening of bids or proposals for this project,
- e) No attempt has been or will be made to induce any other person or entity to submit or to not submit a bid or proposal.

The person signing this bid or proposal certifies that he/she has fully informed himself/herself regarding the accuracy of the statements contained in this certification.

26. Lobbying

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000, or loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000, as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement.
- b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

27. Assignment-Delegation

No responsibility or obligation created by this contract shall be assigned or delegated by the vendor without written permission from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department. Any attempted assignment or delegation by the vendor shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph.

28. Certifications Regarding Legal, Ethical, and Other Matters

By signing this bid, the bidder certifies that:

- a) He/she has read and understands all the General Terms and Conditions in this document, and agrees to be bound by them, and is authorized to submit bids on behalf of the bidder.
- b) The bidder has noted any and all relationships that might be conflicts of interest and included such information with his/her bid response,
- c) The bid submitted conforms with all item specifications, these General Terms and Conditions, and any other instructions, requirements, or schedules outlined or included in this Bid Invitation,
- d) If this bid is accepted, in whole or in part, the bidding entity will furnish any items(s) awarded to them under this Bid Invitation to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department at the price bid, and in accordance with the item specifications and the terms and conditions contained in this Bid Invitation,
- e) The bidding entity has, or has the ability to obtain, such financial and other resources, including inventories, as may be required to fulfill all the responsibilities associated with this bid,
- f) The bidding entity has a high degree of integrity and business ethics, and a satisfactory record of performances, and has not been notified by any local, state, or federal agency with competent jurisdiction that its standing in any matters whatsoever would preclude it from participating in this bid, it would in no other way whatsoever be disqualified to bid or receive any award or contract related to this bid, and the bidder will comply with any reasonable request from the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department to supply any information sufficient to substantiate the bidding entity's ability to meet these minimum standards,
- g) Concerning paragraph "f" above, the bidding entity has identified and disclosed in this written bid response any and all known suspected matters that would disqualify it from participating in this bid or receiving any award or contract related to this bid, recognizing that the bidder's failure to identify and disclose any such matters constitutes its affirmation that no such matters exist, and that failure to disclose in this bid response any such matters which do exist is a material breach of contract which will void the submitted bid or any resulting contracts, and subject bidder to removal from all bid lists, and possible criminal prosecution,
- h) The bidding entity has obtained, and will continue to maintain during the entire term of this contract, all permits, approvals, or licensed, necessary for lawful performance of its obligations under this contract,
- i) The prices, prompt payment discount terms, delivery terms, distribution allowances, and the quality and/or performance of the products offered in the bid response are and will remain the same or better than those offered to the vendor's most favored customer under equivalent circumstances,
- j) The bidding entity will comply with all laws relating to intellectual property, will not infringe on any third party's intellectual property rights, and will indemnify, defend, and hold the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department harmless against any claims for infringement of any copyrights, patents, or other infringements related to its activities under this contract.,

- k) The bid submitted complies with all federal, state, and local laws concerning these types of products or services, and the bidding entity will continue to comply with any applicable federal, state, and local laws related to the bidding entity's activities in connection with this contract,
- l) The bidding entity will maintain, at the bidding entities expense, any insurance necessary to protect the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage that might arise from the performance by the bidding entity or the bidding entity's employees or its agents or any service required of the bidding entity under this contract; however, the existence of such insurance will not relieve the bidding entity of full responsibility and liability for damages, injury, death, or loss as described or as otherwise provided for by law,
- m) The Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department shall not be liable to the bidder for any damages (including, but not limited to, loss of profits or loss of business, or any special, consequential, exemplary, or incidental damages) in the event that the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department declares the bidder in default,
- n) He/she understands that signing the bid with any false statement is a material breach of contract which will void the submitted bid or any resulting contracts, and subject the bidder to removal from all bid lists, and possible criminal prosecution,
- o) Vendors must comply with the State of North Carolina Conflict of Interest requirement as defined in General Statutes, Chapter 14-234.

Unless otherwise provided for in this Bid Invitation, any written notice or other communication required by this bid or by law will be conclusively deemed to have been given and received on the second business day after such written notice has been deposited in the U.S. Mail, properly addressed, and with sufficient postage affixed thereto, provided such notice shall not prevent the giving of actual notice in any other manner.

29. Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters

As requested by Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 26, for prospective participants in primary covered transactions, as defined in 15 CFR Part 26, Sections 26.105 and 26.110-1) the prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that is and its principals:

- a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by an Federal department or agency;
- b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
- d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.

By signing this bid, the bidder certifies that the vendor is in compliance with Federal, State and local guidelines. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

30. Compliance with Clean Air and Water Act

By signing this bid, the bidder certifies that the vendor is in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1857(h), Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1368), Executive Order 117389 and Environmental Protection Agency Regulation, 40 CFR Part 15 as required under OMB Circular A-102, Attachment O, Paragraph 14(l) regarding reporting violations to the grantor agency and to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator of the Enforcement.

31. Compliance with Energy Policy and Conservation Act

By signing this bid, the bidder certifies that the vendor is in compliance with all applicable standards, orders, regulations and policies related to energy efficiency which are contained in the State energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub. L 94-163, 89 Stat. 871). [53 FR 8044, 8087, Mar. 11, 1988, as amended at 60 FR 19639, 19641, Apr. 19, 1995]

32. Records Retention

By signing this bid, the bidder understands that the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the contractor which are directly pertinent to the specific contract, for the purpose of audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

The bidder is required to retain pertinent records for five years after the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department makes final payment and all other pending matters are closed.

33. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosures

By submission of a bid, the bidder agrees that in the performance of any contract resulting from any award under this bid, the bidding entity will comply with all applicable equal employment opportunity laws and regulations, including but not limited to an agreement not to deny any benefit to, exclude from any opportunity, or discriminate in any way against, any applicant, employee, or any other person because of age, color, creed, gender, handicapping condition, marital status, national origin, political affiliation or belief, race, religion, or veteran status.

Bidder further agrees that the bidding entity is and during the period of any contract resulting from any award under this Bid Invitation will remain, in compliance with Executive Order 11246 entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" as amended by Executive Order 11375, and supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41CFR Part 60).

The occurrence of any prohibited discrimination will constitute vendor's breach of contract due to a substantial failure by the vendor to fulfill its obligations, whereupon the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department may terminate the vendor's contract for cause as provided by section #23 of this General Terms and Conditions document entitled "Remedies for Non-Performance of Contract, and Contract Termination."

34. Venue

This agreement will be construed and governed according to the laws of the State of North Carolina. Both parties agree that the venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Caldwell County, North Carolina.

35. Catalogs

For "discount from catalog" bids or other bids based on industry or other "benchmark" pricing lists or tables, it will be the responsibility of the successful bidder(s) to provide the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department with a complete, updated catalog and/or price list for all items awarded within five (5) working days of receipt of a Notification of Award. Subsequent additions, deletions, or changes in product specifications may be submitted to the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department when they become available.

36 Waiver

No claims or rights arising out of a breach of this contract can be discharged in whole or part by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing signed by the aggrieved party.

37. Interpretation -Parole Evidence

This writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of their agreement and a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of their agreement. No course of prior dealing between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any terms used in this agreement. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of performance rendered under this agreement shall not be relevant to determine the meaning of this agreement even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection.

38. Right to Assurance

Whenever one party to this contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform he may demand that the other party give a written assurance of his intent to perform. In the event that a demand is made and no assurance is given within five (5) days, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the contract.

39. Indemnity and Insurance Requirements

The Bidder shall identify the CCS, its officers, agents, employees and assigns from and against all loss, cost, damages, expenses, attorneys' fees and liability that any of them may sustain:

- a) Arising out of the Bidder's failure to comply with any applicable law, ordinance, regulation, or industry standard;
- b) Arising directly or indirectly out of the Bidder's performance or lack of performance of the Contract, or
- c) Arising out of liens that are asserted relating to the Bidder's performance or lack of performance of the Contract.

The Bidder further certifies that it currently has and agrees to maintain during the life of the Contract the following insurance from one or more insurance companies acceptable to Caldwell County Schools and authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina.

40. Commercial General Liability

The Bidder shall provide bodily injury and property damage liability insurance, including coverage for products liability and completed operations, as shall protect the Bidder from claims of bodily injury or property damage, which arise from performance under the Contract. The policy limits of such insurance shall not be less than \$1,000,000 bodily injury and property damage liability combined single limit each occurrence/ annual aggregate.

Certificates of such insurance will be furnished by the Bidder to CCS and shall contain the provision that CCS is given 30 days written notice of any intent to amend or terminate by either the Bidder or the insuring company. Failure to maintain such insurance shall be a default under the Contract and shall be grounds for immediate termination of the Contract.

41. Mediation

In the event that a dispute arises out of or related to the Contract, or the breach thereof, which cannot be settled through negotiation, each of the Bidder and CCS agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial mediation Rules before resorting to litigation.

42. Delivery Person

Any person that delivers to Caldwell County Schools shall not deliver to Caldwell County Schools if they are not a Citizen in good standing. Not limited to but shall include. No person shall deliver or have access to Caldwell County Schools because of any job responsibility from a successful proposer that has been convicted to any violent acts against any person or any illegal acts with a Juvenile. IT will be the company's responsibility to ensure these items stay in compliance. At any time Caldwell County Schools shall be able to request a different driver if the person has been disrespectful and uncooperative with the facility.

43. Product Testing

If there is a question raised by a proposer regarding a competitor's product meeting the specifications, or the wholesomeness of any food product(s), a test by an independent laboratory (on the product in question) may be discretion of Caldwell County Schools. The proposer(s) raising the question(s) will be billed for the laboratory test should the test establish the products meet the specifications. Should the tested product fail to meet specifications, the proposer(s) that submitted the product(s) will be billed for the laboratory test.

44. Extension Clause

This contract may be extended for up to four (4) additional years from the expiration of the Contract period, unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Contract, if the vendor and the Child Nutrition Department mutually agree, and no increases in costs are incurred, and the maximum allowable escalation price is capped by the annual national Consumer Price Index, *Cost of Food Away From Home*, increase.

45. Proposal Acceptance

The period for acceptance of this proposal will be thirty (30) calendar days unless the bidder indicates a different period.

46. Questions Regarding Bid

Questions or requests for additional information concerning this bid or the specifications should be addressed to:

Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department
Attention: Jessica Price, Child Nutrition Director
1914 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645
Telephone: (828) 728-8407

47. Protest Procedure

Protests of awards exceeding \$10,000 in value must be submitted to the Associate Superintendent of Caldwell County School System at the address below. Protests must be received at this office within 15 calendar days from the date of the Contract award and provide specific reasons and any supporting documentation for the protest. Protests should be addressed to:

Caldwell County Schools
Attention: Dr. Andy Puhl, Associate Superintendent
1914 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645
Telephone: (828) 728-8407

FORM - A**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET**

Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department Bid Certification

Bid Name: Ice Cream Bid
Bid Numbers: **21**

Bid Opening Date and Time:
June 12, 2025 @ 1:00pm

Minimum Contract Time Period:
July 1, 2025 through
June 30, 2026

Location of Bid Opening:
**1914 Hickory Blvd.
Lenoir, NC, 28645**

The undersigned authorized representative of bidding company indicated below hereby acknowledges/certifies:

1. That he/she is authorized to enter into contractual relationships on behalf of the bidding company indicated below, and
2. That he/she has carefully examined this Bid Notice, the accompanying Bid Forms (whether in printed or electronic form), and the General Terms and Conditions and Item Specification associated with the Bid Invitation, unless any exceptions are noted in writing this bid response, and
3. That he/she proposes to supply any products or services submitted under this Bid Invitation at the prices quoted and in strict compliance with the General terms and Conditions, and Item Specifications associated with this Bid Invitation, unless any exceptions are noted in writing with this bid response, and
4. That if any part of this bid is accepted, he/she will furnish all products or services awarded under this bid at the prices quoted and in strict compliance with the General Terms and Conditions, and Item Specifications associated with this Bid Invitation, unless any exceptions are noted in writing with this bid response, and
5. That any and all exceptions to the General Terms or Conditions of this bid have been noted in writing this bid response, and that no other exceptions to the General Terms or Conditions will be claimed.

Name of Bidding Company

Fax Number of Authorized Representative

Address

Signature of Authorized Representative

City, State, Zip

Printed Name of Authorized Representative

Telephone Number of Authorized Representative

Position or Title of Authorized Representative

Email address of Authorized Representative

FORM - B**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET**

Caldwell County Child Nutrition Department Additional Company Information

Company Name (Please Print)

Contract Person Information:

If contact person or mailing address is different than Form A, please specify below

Mailing Address: _____

Contract Person _____

Position or Title of Contact Person _____

Phone Number of Contact Person _____

Fax Number of Contact Person _____

Email of Contact Person _____

ISO Certified Entity:

The Caldwell County School System has the assurance that the quality of products and services received will be as expected when purchased from an organization that is registered to the appropriate ISO standard. Therefore, to assist in this endeavor to purchase quality products, the Caldwell County School System may give preference to suppliers that are ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certified.

Is your company ISO Certified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Certification: I certify that the information provided above is correct.

Signature of Authorized Representative

FORM - C**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET****Caldwell County Schools****Dealerships Listing**

If your company has more than one location that will be servicing this contract, please list each location below. If additional sheets are required, please duplicate this form as necessary or attach a list with requested information.

(Please Type or Print)

Company Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

Contact Person

Company Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

Contact Person

FORM - D**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET**

**Caldwell County Schools
Historically Underutilized Business
(HUB) Certification**

Bidding companies that have been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) entities are encouraged to indicate their HUB status when responding to this Bid Invitation.

- I certify that my company has been certified by the North Carolina Department of Administration as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), and I have attached a copy of our HUB Certification to this form. **(Required documentation for recognition as a HUB).**
 - Minority
 - Small Business
 - Woman Owned

- ☐ My company has NOT been certified by North Carolina as a Historically Underutilized Business (HUB).

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

FORM - E**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET****CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS, LOANS****AND****COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS****Lobbying**

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- 1) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- 2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions.
- 3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-contracts, sub-grants and contracts under grants, loans and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31 U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

FORM - F**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET****U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other****Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions**

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 7 CFR Part 3017, Section 3017.510, Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were published as Part IV of the January 30, 1989, Federal Register (pages 4722-4733). Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the proposed covered transaction.

(BEFORE COMPLETING CERTIFICATION, READ INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE)

1. The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
 - a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or Local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - d) have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or Local) terminated for cause or default.
2. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participants shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

 Company Name (Please Print)

 Signature of Authorized Representative

 Date

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

1. By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on the reverse side in accordance with these instructions.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

FORM - G**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET****All Inquiries and Monthly Statements should be sent to:**

Caldwell County Schools, Child Nutrition Department

Attention: Sara McCabe

1914 Hickory Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645

| School, Address, Manager, Phone # | School, Address, Manager, Phone # | School, Address, Manager, Phone # |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Baton Elementary</u> 1400 Baton School Road Granite Falls, NC 28630 Connie Winters 828-728-9531 | <u>Granite Falls. Elem.</u> 60 North Highland Ave. Granite Falls, NC 28630 Alice Wright 828-396-2222 | <u>William Lenoir Middle</u> 332 Greenhaven Drive Lenoir, NC 28645 Amy Smith 828-758-2500 |
| <u>Collettsville Elementary</u> 4690 Collettsville School Rd Collettsville, NC 28611 Amy Coffey 828-754-6913 | <u>Granite Falls Middle</u> 90 North Main Street Granite Falls, NC 28630 Beverly Cash 828-396-2341 | <u>Lower Creek</u> 630 Lower Creek Drive Lenoir, NC 28645 Amanda Phillips 828-754-4022 |
| <u>Early College High</u> 2855 Hickory Blvd. Hudson, NC 28638 Melinda Gragg 828-759-4636 | <u>Happy Valley</u> 1350 Yadkin River Road Patterson, NC 28611 Roxy Coffey 828-754-3496 | <u>Sawmills Elementary</u> 4436 Sawmills School Road Granite Falls, NC 28630 Melanie Annas 828-396-2610 |
| <u>Davenport A+ School</u> 910 College Avenue Lenoir, NC 28645 Trina Teague 828-754-6947 | <u>Hibriten High School</u> 550 East Blvd. Lenoir, NC 28645 Tammy Greene 828-758-7376 | <u>South Caldwell High School</u> 7035 Spartan Drive Hudson, NC 28638 Agnes Chester 828-396-2188 |
| <u>Dudley Shoals</u> 1500 Dudley Shoals Road Granite Falls, NC 28630 Sarah McCrary 828-396-3457 | <u>Hudson Elementary</u> 200 Roy E. Coffey Drive Hudson, NC 28638 Jatana Gilbert 828-728-3712 | <u>Valmead Elementary</u> 111 Elizabeth Drive NW Lenoir, NC 28645 Karen Center 828-754-9612 |
| <u>Gamewell Elementary</u> 2904 Morganton Blvd. Lenoir, NC 28645 Brittney Revis 828-758-1193 | <u>Hudson Middle School</u> 291 Pine Mountain Road Hudson, NC 28638 Kelly Calloway 828-728-4281 | <u>West Caldwell High School</u> 300 West Caldwell Drive Lenoir, NC 28645 Jamie Main 828-758-5583 |
| <u>Gamewell Middle</u> 3210 Gamewell School Road Lenoir, NC 28645 Amy Crump 828-754-6204 | <u>King's Creek</u> 3680 Wilkesboro Blvd. Lenoir, NC 28645 Denise Shiflett 828-754-6093 | <u>Whitnel Elementary</u> 116 Hibriten Drive SW Lenoir, NC 28645 Danielle Norris 828-728-2606 |

REMINDER: You can cite exceptions to the terms and conditions on your "Deviation/Compliance Form" to control additional freight to schools. Please sign below to indicate that you understand your service commitments during the term of this contract.

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

FORM - H**RETURN THIS DOCUMENT IN SEALED BID PACKET****Caldwell County Schools
Deviations/ Compliance Form**

If the undersigned bidder intends to deviate from the General Terms and Conditions or Items Specifications listed in this bid invitation, all such deviations must be listed on this page, with complete and detailed conditions and information included or attached. The Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department will consider any deviations in its bid award decisions, and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid based upon any deviations indicated below or in any attachments or inclusions.

In the absence of any deviation entry on this form, the bidder assures the Caldwell County Schools Child Nutrition Department of their full compliance with the General Terms and Conditions, Item Specifications, and all other information contained in this Bid Invitation.

- No Deviations
- Deviations as listed

List any deviations your company is submitted below:

Company Name (Please Print)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Caldwell County Schools
Child Nutrition Department
1914 Hickory Blvd. SW, Lenoir, NC 28645

FORMS CHECKLIST (this forms checklist is included for your convenience.
Please complete and return all of the attached forms):

- Bid Certification - Form A
- Additional Company Information - Form B
- Dealership Listing - Form C
- ↑HUB Certification - Form D
- Certification Regarding Lobbying - Form E
- Debarment Suspension Certification - Form F
- Caldwell County Schools Service Area Designation - Form G
- Deviations/Compliance - Form H
- Attachments - Bid Specifications with pricing

Caldwell County Schools

No Response Form

By my signature, I _____ certify that
on _____, 2025, (Name of Company) _____
_____ has reviewed Caldwell County's
solicitation for Ice Cream and elects not to submit a Bid.

Authorized Signature

Title of Individual

Address of Company

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

Fax Number

LUNSFORD ACT – The Vendor acknowledges that N.C. General Statute 14-208.18 prohibits anyone required to register as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes from knowingly being on the premises of any school. This prohibition applies to persons required to register under Article 27A who have committed any offense in Article 7A of Chapter 14 or any offense where the victim of the offense was under the age of 16 years at the time of the offense.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS – The Vendor shall conduct criminal background checks on each of its employees who, pursuant to this Agreement, engage in any services on Caldwell County School property or at Caldwell County School events. The Vendor shall provide documentation that criminal background checks were conducted on each of its employees prior to hiring, and shall refuse employment to any person convicted of a felony or any other crime, whether misdemeanor or felony, that indicates the person poses a threat to the physical safety of students, school personnel or others. Such check shall include an annual check of the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, and the National Sex Offender Registry. Vendor shall not assign any employee or agent to provide services pursuant to this contract if (1) said worker appears on any of the listed registries; (2) said worker has been convicted of a felony; (3) said worker has been convicted of any crime, whether misdemeanor or felony, involving sex, violence, or drugs; or (4) said worker has engaged in any crime or conduct indicating that the worker may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of student or school personnel. Caldwell County Schools reserves the right to prohibit any individual employee of Vendor from providing services on Caldwell County School property or at Caldwell County School events if Caldwell County Schools determines, in its sole discretion, that such employee poses a threat to the safety or well-being of students, school personnel or others.

With the USDA requirement please list any products that you may have that meet these requirements.

- **Calorie Limit:** Ice cream must be less than 200 calories per item.
- **Fat Content:** Less than 35% of the total calories must come from fat, and less than 10% from saturated fat.
- **Trans Fat:** Zero grams of trans fat (less than 0.5 grams per portion) are allowed.
- **Sugar Content:** Less than 35% of the weight can be from total sugar.
- **Sodium Limit:** No more than 200 milligrams of sodium per item.
- **Nutrient Contribution:** The ice cream must either contain 10% or more of a Daily Value of a nutrient or have dairy or fruit listed as the first ingredient.

A bid sheet is attached for the convenience of the bidder.
Please list or attach a sheet of items that meet the new USDA regulations.

Approximate 2024-2025 usage for Caldwell County:

450 Ice Cream Sandwiches

950 Bars

- Cotton Candy Bar
- Chocolate Crunch bar
- Strawberry Crunch bar
- Crumble Cookie Bar

950 Cones

- Birthday Cake Cone
- Crumbled Cookie Cone

600 Fudge and Orange Creme Bars

450 Cups

- Vanilla
- Chocolate
- Strawberry

1000 Sour Cyclones

- Sour
- Sour Blue Raspberry
- Sour Cherry

Caldwell County Schools
Child Nutrition Department